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Atty. Ref.: USUI-12N

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**GROUP 3600**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Shoichiro Usui  
Appl. No. : 09/731,170  
Filed : December 6, 2000  
For : HIGH-PRESSURE METAL PIPE HAVING CONNECTING HEAD AND  
METHOD FORMING THE CONNECTING HEAD AS WELL AS  
SLEEVE WASHER FOR THE CONNECTING HEAD"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**TRANSMITTAL OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT  
AND  
SUBSTITUTE DECLARATION**

Sir:

The above-identified application was filed on December 6, 2000 along with a Declaration executed by the inventor. Counsel recently received a certified copy of the priority document for this case. The priority document was compared to the original Declaration, and counsel noted that a typographical error existed in the original Declaration executed by the inventor. In particular, the reference in the Declaration to the priority document included an extra digit. Accordingly, counsel obtained and is submitting a substitute Declaration along with the priority document. The Examiner will note that the substitute Declaration includes a claim for convention priority rights with proper reference to the Japanese application upon which priority is claimed. This substitute Declaration also refers to the U.S. application by its application number and filing date.

2011-11-02 - 09/731,170  
GROUP 3600

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

on November 16, 2001

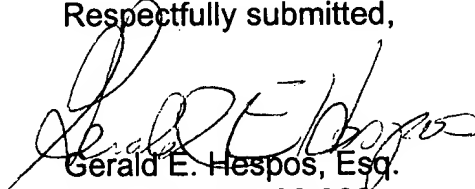
Hilda A. Abreu

*Hilda Abreu*

Approved by exam 5-16-02

The Examiner is requested to accept this substitute Declaration and to accept and acknowledge the attached certified copy of the priority document.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name.

Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066

Customer No. 001218

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Date: November 16, 2001